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COMIC SHOP NEWS™

GRIMM

Dynamite Excited About Grimm Future

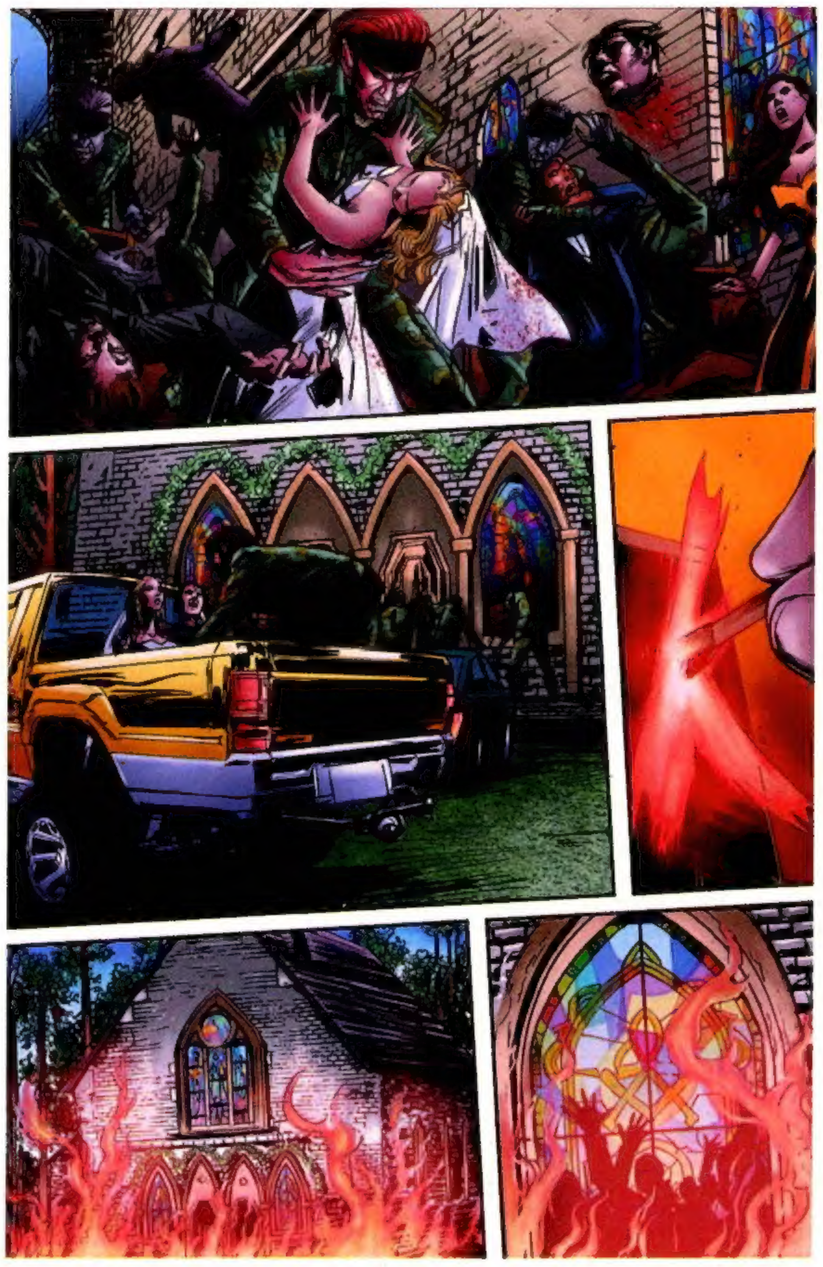
For a season and a half, Detective Nick Burkhardt has waged a secret war against the dangerous creatures of nightmare, legend, and myth in the hit NBC series ***Grimm***. This spring, Burkhardt's war enters a new front as Dynamite Entertainment launches its ***Grimm*** comic book series featuring new tales of Burkhardt's war against the evil beings known as the Wesen.

"***Grimm*** is one of the hottest new genre shows on TV," Dynamite publisher *Nick Barrucci* said. "We had asked NBC numerous times since Season One about licensing this great TV show as a Dynamite comic. They weren't ready to license in the first year, as they were still building the mythology. The second they opened up the license for proposals, though we were eager to place our best foot forward, and we offered an aggressive creative, financial, and marketing plan. Fans of the TV show will enjoy what we have in store and how the comics will complement the TV series."

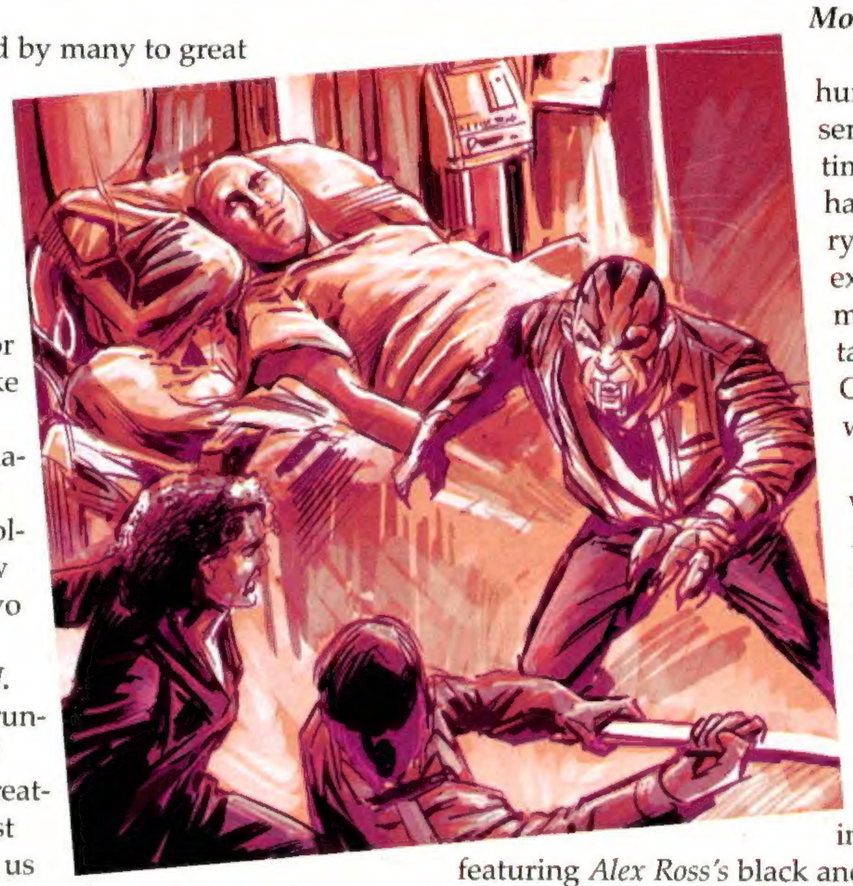
"The opportunity to delve even deeper into the Grimm universe is an exciting prospect—one we hope fans of the show and comic books in general will enjoy equally," Executive Producer *David Greenwalt* said. "The medium will allow the story to go places we never could within the constraints of a television production. It's pretty cool."

To ensure that the comic book series ties in perfectly with the increasingly complex continuity of the ***Grimm*** TV series, Dynamite is enlisting writers of the NBC series to tell the comic book tales as well—and that team of writers includes executive producers *David Greenwalt* and *Jim Kouf*. as well as *Marc Gaffen & Kyle McVey*.

In case you've never watched the series, *Chris Lucero*, director of licensings for NBCUniversal Television Consumer Products, offered a synopsis of ***Grimm*** as well as some background on central character Nick Burkhardt and his lineage. "Nick is a Portland police detective in his regular life, but as the series begins, Nick discovers that he's actually descended from an elite group of criminal profilers, known as 'Grimms,' who were charged with keeping the balance between the human world and the world of the 'Wesen,' the creatures who stalk humanity in secret," Lucero explained. "Nick inherited his preternatural abilities from his mother and his aunt, but the Grimms' lineage can be traced back generations to the original Brothers Grimm in Bavaria."



Grimm has been compared by many to great dark fantasy series like ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer*** or ***Supernatural*** in that it has developed a complex mythology built around an ensemble cast. Does that create challenges of its own for the writers? It seems like it must require a full-time continuity coordinator just to keep track of everything. "The mythology established in-show during ***Grimm's*** first two seasons is incredibly deep," Lucero told ***CSN***. "For the comics, show runners *Jim Kouf* and *David Greenwalt* are directly creating the story for our first couple of issues to help us set the tone and direction for this ongoing series.



"Beyond that, the consumer products group at NBCUniversal and Dynamite will be working closely with the production and the network to keep the comic stories 'in canon' as much as possible. Our goal is for the ***Grimm*** comics to feel like an extension of the action airing every week in the show, enlarging the overall ***Grimm***-verse."

The first comics storyline will focus on Nick's mother; what led to the decision to give her such a prominent role in the first story arc, rather than presenting a Nick-centric tale? "We felt it was intrinsic to tie the major events of this season to the new comic stories for the benefit current fans," Lucero said, "and hopefully this will help draw new fans to both the comics and series. Nick's mom and the Coins of Zakynthos [ancient coins of incredible power and immeasurable danger to everyone other than Grimms] were such important parts of the show this season that we really wanted to continue featuring this story in ways we couldn't devote more airtime to."

Monroe, a "reformed Wesen," is a fan-favorite part of the ***Grimm*** TV series; will he play a role in this initial storyline as well? "Yes, as Nick's friend and guide through the Wesen world, Monroe will *definitely* be an integral part of this storyline and many, many stories to come," Lucero said. "That said, you'll also the rest of the tremendous supporting cast that we've put together, so Hank, Captain Renard, Rosalee, Sergeant Wu, and the rest will be making regular appearances in our stories as well."

Where do these stories fit into the continuity of the television series? "The stories presented in the comics are really meant to be extensions of the world and continuity created in the TV series," Lucero replied. "Many times, the production schedule just doesn't allow for every element of the mythology that's been created to receive all the necessary attention during a given season. As such, we're still able to take elements that have only been hinted at or explored at a cursory level and dig deeper into that mythology to flesh out the overall world that we're creating."

Are there story lines that just wouldn't work for television because of expense, scale, etc., that can be more successfully developed in a comic book? "Absolutely! While we are able to tell fantastic, gripping stories each week, there are limits to what we can do in 22 or so hours of television every season," Lucero said. "The great thing about the medium of comics is that we can go anywhere and do many things that just can't be done due to traditional time and budget constraints.

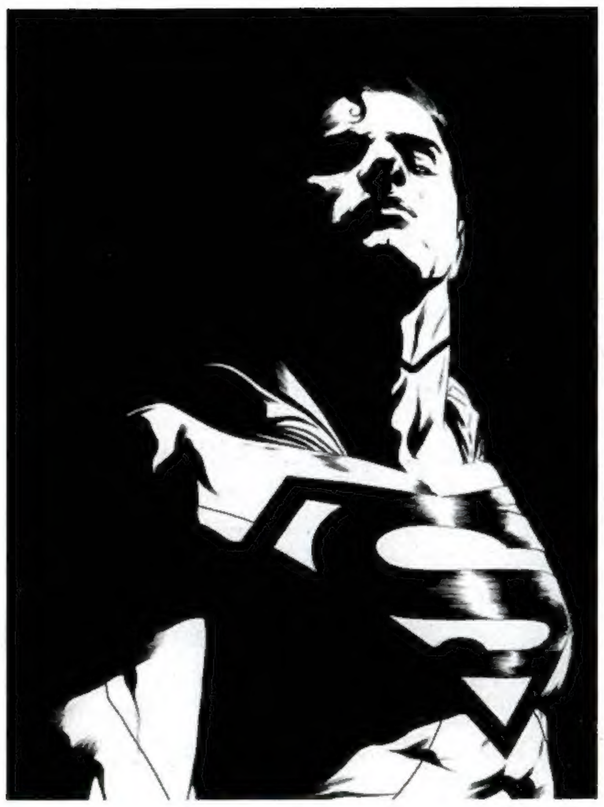
"However, that's not to say that we will take advantage of the medium, either. Our goal is to keep as true to the show as we can, so you won't see outrageous scenarios being presented that don't fit with the continuity. I can assure you that Nick won't be heading into space, ***Moonraker***-style, anytime soon!

"Ultimately, ***Grimm's*** blend of humor and horror make it an ideal series to work on with our long-time partners at Dynamite, who have a knack for this kind of storytelling. We look forward to exploring the series' deep mythology and telling exciting tales that will broaden the Grimm universe for fans, everywhere."

Grimm #1, a $3.99 comic written by *David Greenwalt, Jim Kouf, Marc Gaffen, & Kyle McVey* and illustrated by *José Malaga,* is slated for May 22nd release. *Alex Ross* is supplying the painted art for the main cover; Dynamite is also offering a subscription variant photo cover. Dynamite is also offering a 1-for-25 incentive cover featuring *Alex Ross's* black and white art for the cover; check with the folks at your friendly neighborhood comic shop regarding availability and price of this limited incentive.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!



COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

Here's the World's Finest Announcement!

Batman and Superman have been friends and partners since the 1950s, when their exploits were featured in the fondly-remembered DC title ***World's Finest.*** That classic team-up gets a New 52 updating in June with the premiere of ***Batman/Superman,*** an ongoing comic book series written by *Greg Pak* with art by *Jae Lee*. The initial story arc will reveal the definitive New 52 version of the first meeting of comics' most famous heroes.

"Working in comics, almost every project you do for DC or Marvel deals with these amazing characters that are so much fun to work with," Pak told ***USA Today***. "But, wow, Superman and Batman? That kind of lifts your hat and spins it around in the air a bit.

"It is a real thrill—and it's particularly a thrill because we're being given some real leeway to do some really important storytelling with these characters. It really defines some great things and to depict some really key moments for them."

"We've been given the incredible opportunity to show these two icons meeting for the first time at this very early and raw stage in their careers," Pak said. "Neither one of them has ever heard of the other guy.

"What would your reaction be if you saw a guy running around in a bat costume in the dead of night attacking people for the first time? And what would your reaction be if you met an alien who could crush steel in his bare hands for the first time? These guys are going to have very different immediate impressions of each other than we're used to seeing with these characters."

This will be *Jae Lee's* second major project

for DC, following his work on ***Before Watchmen: Ozymandias***. "The idea of *Jae Lee* drawing Batman is sort of a no-brainer. That makes total sense," Pak said. "(But) he's doing some cool new stuff and when you put these two characters together, they've got different palettes and environments."

CSNsider

•Artist *Scott Clark,* whose work has been seen on such titles as ***Batman Inc.*** and (more recently) ***Grifter*** as well as on the covers of many DC titles, died on February 21st at the age of 43. "I've known Scott since the earliest days of WildStorm—he was one of the very first artists I brought into the studio back in 1993," DC Entertainment Co-Publisher *Jim Lee* said. "I'm stunned and saddened by this news and at a loss for words. Scott was a great talent, a terrific guy, and a friend. He was one of the regular crew of artists who worked well into the night (every night), took dinner at Denny's at 2am and played ping pong in between drawing pages. We will all miss him dearly. Our thoughts are with his family during this time."

•IDW has landed the rights to publish comics versions of a number of Cartoon Network properties, beginning with ***Powerpuff Girls,*** based on the new TV show. Also in the works are ***Johnny Bravo, Dexter's Lab, Foster's Home for Imaginary Friends, Samurai Jack,*** and ***Ben 10,*** among others.

•Following the success of last year's ***V for Vendetta Book & Mask Set*** from DC, the company will be offering a ***Batman: Court of Owls Book & Mask Set*** later this year.

•***Dexter,*** the Marvel Comics series written by *Jeff Lindsay* based on Lindsay's best-selling novels that also inspired the hit Showtime TV series, has once again been taken off the Marvel schedule. Orders for ***Dexter #s 1, 2, & 3*** have been cancelled; Marvel reports that the book will be resolicited at a later date. No reason was given for the delay.

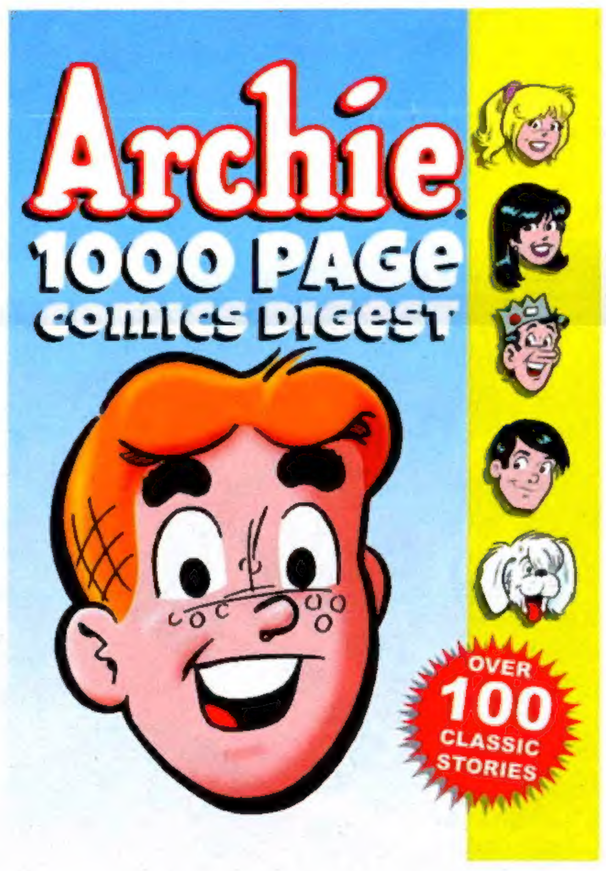
•*Gail Simone* has signed on to write ***Red Sonja*** for Dynamite Entertainment; no word yet on when her first issue will premiere, but as soon as we find out, you'll hear about it in *CSN!*

•While we still don't have official word regarding the actual *title* of the series, the *Scott Snyder-Jim Lee* Superman book that was first reported several months ago is now officially on the schedule for June release. DC still isn't revealing the title, but it *is* worth noting that it is debuting at about the same time as the ***Man of Steel*** film...

•DC will collect the mega-hit "Death of the Family" storyline in *two* hardcover volumes later this year. The first book, ***Batman: Death of the Family,*** is a 176-page collection of the core story, while the hefty ***Joker: Death of the Family Companion,*** a 387-page volume, collects all the related tie-ins.

•DC's upcoming Omnibus volumes include the ***DC One Million Omnibus*** and the ***Planetary Omnibus,*** a comprehensive collection of the *Warren Ellis-John Cassaday* series that will include the core series as well as ***Planetary: Crossing Worlds.***

•First Archie Comics offered digests, then double digests, then double double digests—and now they're going for the ultimate package with the release of ***Archie's 1000 Page Comics Digest!*** The book actually weighs in at a hefty 1024 pages of full color classic comics, all for only $14.99; look for it in May.



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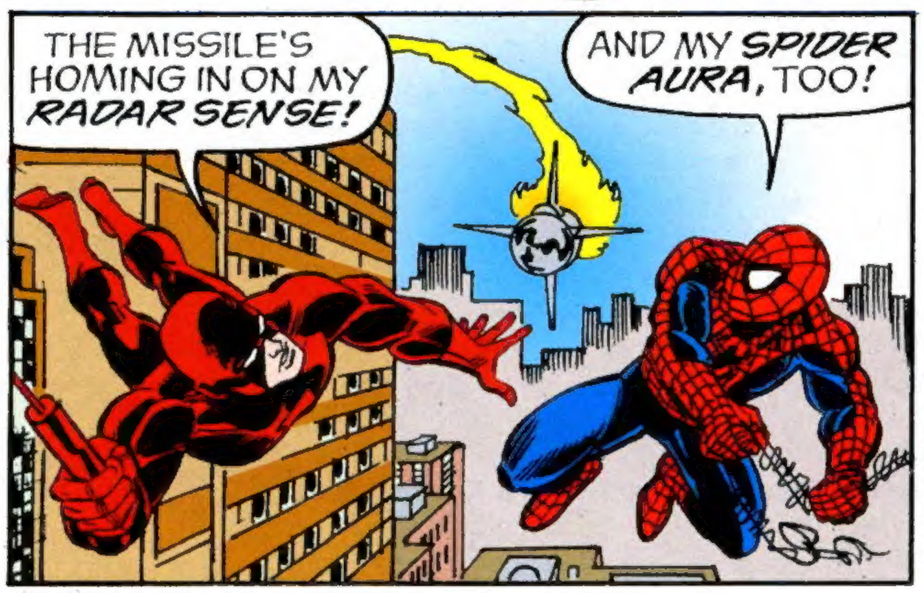
SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER



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•Diamond Vice President of Operations *Cindy Fournier* was the recipient of the 2013 ComicsPRO Industry Appreciation Award. Fournier, who has worked in the industry for more than a quarter century, oversees the increasingly-complex distribution that gets those comics into your friendly neighborhood comic shop week after week.

•The ComicsPRO Industry Appreciation Memorial Award was presented posthumously to *Will Eisner* in recognition of his positive contribution to comics retailing. In recognition of Eisner's contribution, ComicsPRO said, "*Will Eisner's* breadth of material spans the eight decades of American comics history... On the business side, Eisner understood the unique relationship between creator and retailer, founding the 'Spirit of Comics' award that recognizes the work of the industry's brightest retailers."

•At the ComicsPRO retailers meeting, Marvel shows an image bearing the Marvel logo above the blood-red words *"of the Dead,"* followed by the smaller tag-line *Fall 2013*. Some speculate that this will mark a relaunch of the Marvel Zombies franchise, while others theorize that zombiemeister *George Romero* might be involved in some way, since Romero mentioned back in October 2012 that he'd be writing a comic for Marvel—a series that he said "won't involve any of their ongoing characters... But it will involve zombies!" (Of course, that could very well be a Marvel Zombies relaunch, couldn't it?) Look for more news as it becomes available.

•Look for a significant addition to the Valiant Universe in the pages of ***Harbinger Wars #3,*** in stores in June. Long-time Valiant find might not find it too hard to figure out just who's going to play an important role in that issue...

•Artist *Clayton Crain* is joining Valiant creators *Joshua Dysart, Duane Swierczynski, & Clayton Henry* on ***Harbinger Wars #1.***

""*Clayton Crain* is a phenomenal talent and we're extraordinarily happy to have him joining Valiant for ***Harbinger Wars #1,***" said Valiant Executive Editor *Warren Simons*. "He will be handling a pivotal sequence introducing Generation Zero, the strike force controlled by Project Rising Spirit that inadvertently sets the Harbinger Wars in motion."

•Boom Entertainment will be offering new printings of ***Adventure Time #s 1-6*** in April—but what makes this so noteworthy is that all six issues will feature new cover art that fits together to form one large connecting image. ***Adventure Time*** collectors, take note!

•Viz Media is launching a line of ***Hello Kitty*** graphic novels, one of which—***Hello Kitty: Fashion Music Wonderland***—will only be available to comic shops that are members of ComicsPRO.

•According to *Gail Simone,* at least one "benched female character" from the DCU is coming back as a part of the upcoming politically-themed New 52 title ***The Movement.*** No word yet on just who that character will be, however.

•*Steven Grant's* ***Two Guns*** miniseries is coming to the big screen this summer as a major motion picture starring *Denzel Washington & Mark Wahlberg*. In case you missed the crime comic that inspired it, Boom is reoffering the series in the ***Two Guns: Second Shot Deluxe Edition TP.***

•In ***Suicide Risk #1,*** *Mike Carey* introduces readers to a world in which super-powered people are inexplicably rising from the streets. That's not a good thing, though, as most of the people who gain superpowers are becoming super-villains, and there aren't enough heroes to balance things out. and there's a big problem: Too many supervillains, not enough superheroes. But one man, a beat cop named Leo Winters, is determined to take on the super-villains. In a world filled with super-villains, however, any effort to confront them is most definitely a suicide risk... The new *Mike Carey* series from Boom Entertainment, featuring art by *Elena Casagrande,* is slated for May premiere.

•*Clive Barker* is both co-writer and creator of the original series ***Clive Barker's New Genesis.*** The epic fantasy saga begins as industrialist Julian Demond embarks on a walkabout, convinced he's on a mission from God. While in the wasteland, he comes across a figure unlike any other, who calls himself Wick...and claims to be God. Their journey will span the globe, as neither man merely wants to make a mark on the world, but a scar. Look for the first issue in May.

Venditti, Tan, Fialkov, Jordan, Chang, Walker, Vitti, Giffen, & Kolins Join the Corps

CSN recently told you about the departure of the creative teams of the ***Green Lantern*** family of titles following May's "Wrath of the First Lantern" story arc. Now we can tell you who'll be taking their place:

•***Green Lantern:*** *Robert Venditti & Billy Tan*

•***Green Lantern Corps:*** *Josh Fialkov & Bernard Chang*

•***Green Lantern—New Guardians:*** *Justin Jordan & Brad Walker*

•***Red Lanterns:*** *Josh Fialkov & Alessandro Vitti*

•***Larfleeze:*** *Keith Giffen & Scott Kolins*

No word yet as to whether the surprise ***Larfleeze*** series is replacing the recently-launched ***Threshold*** (which featured a Larfleeze backup tale in each issue), or whether ***Threshold*** will continue with another backup story.

Vertigo: Fables Told (and Tolled), Unwritten Written

Readers who were unsure about the future of DC's Vertigo imprint have plenty to cheer about. "We have new projects coming from key creators who have been involved in Vertigo," DC co-publisher *Dan DiDio* said. "*Hank Kanalz* is leading the charge to replenish the pool of talent that's coming up there. We don't want to put series out just for series' sake—we want to make sure they're the best product possible."

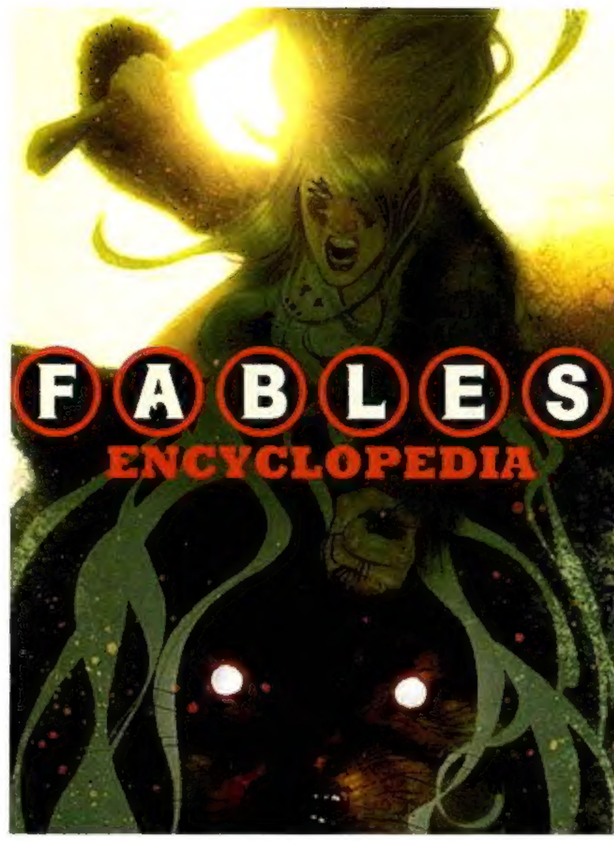
Kanalz stressed that importance of Vertigo to DC Entertainment, and called attention to already-announced Vertigo major-talent high-profile projects like *Scott Snyder & Sean Murphy's* ***Wake*** nine-issue maxiseries (launching in May), *Jeff Lemire's* ***Trillium*** (coming this summer), and *Neil Gaiman & JH Williams III's* ***Sandman*** project (due later this year, and described by DC's *John Rood* as "the centerpiece of our reinvigoration of the brand).

DC also revealed that there are several new books forthcoming from Vertigo, including

•***Fairest of Them All,*** a hardcover anthology spinning out of the ***Fables*** spinoff ***Fairest.*** *Bill Willingham* is writing all the stories in the original hardcover, working with such talents as *Mark Chiarello, Adam Hughes, Karl Kerschl, & Chrissie Zullo.*

•***The Unwritten: Tommy Taylor & the Ship That Sank Twice,*** written by *Mike Carey* with layouts by *Peter Gross* and finished art by *Kurt Huggins & Zelda Devon. Yuko Shimizu* supplies the painted cover art.

•***The Fables Encyclopedia,*** edited by comics researcher and expert *Jess Nevins*. This book will feature origins and backgrounds for all the core cast members of the series, comparing their tales to the traditional stories that inspired ***Fables.*** Creators *Bill Willingham & Mark Buckingham* supply annotations for the book, while *Adam Hughes* provides the art for the wraparound cover.



Also in the works from Vertigo is ***The Girl Who Played with Fire Book 1,*** *Denise Mina, Leonardo Manco, & Andrea Mutti,* the first of two volumes adapting the second book in the *Stieg Larssen* "Millennium series; ***Vertigo Visions: Frank Quitely,*** a 144-page hardcover collection of Quitely-illustrated tales; and ***The Children's Crusade*** by *Neil Gaiman* and others, collecting the acclaimed Vertigo series in a massive 416-page hardcover.

Back to Press

•***Batman Incorporated #8 2nd Printing*** (JAN138169), featuring a recolored version of the standard edition cover by *Chris Burnham,* in stores now.

•***Django Unchained #1 3rd Printing*** (JAN138173), in stores 3/20.

•***Hawkeye #1 5th Printing*** (JAN138150), featuring a variant cover by *David Aja,* in stores 3/27.

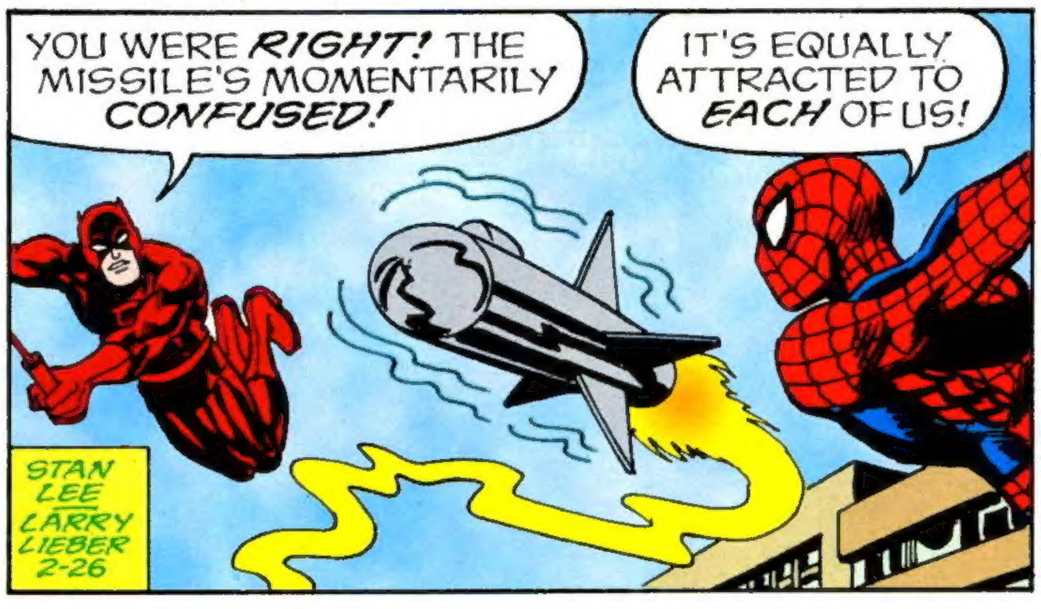
•***Nowhere Men #1 4th Printing*** (JAN138123), in stores 3/27.

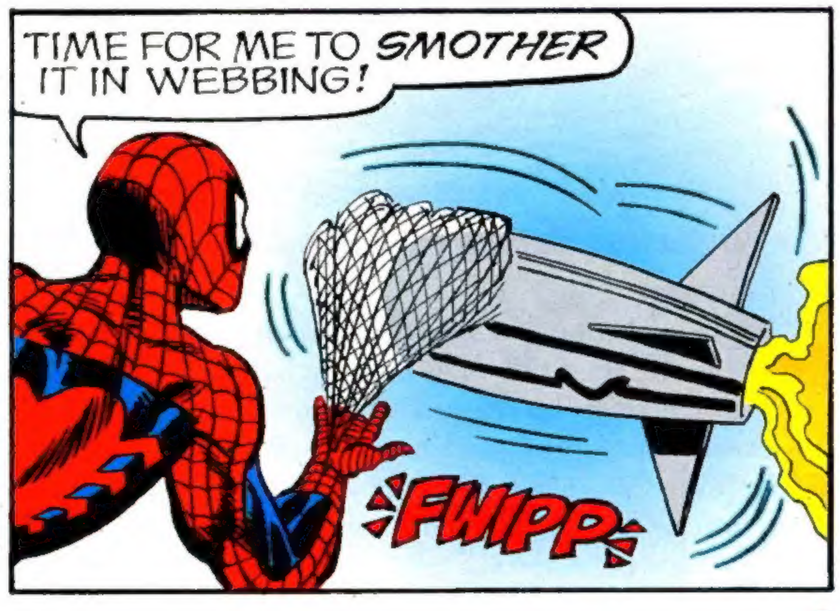
•***Supurbia #1 3rd Printing*** (JAN138116), in stores 3/20.

•***Thief of Thieves #10 2nd Printing*** (JAN138174), in stores 3/27.

•***Todd the Ugliest Kid on Earth #2 2nd Printing*** (JAN138185), in stores 3/27.

If you enjoy reading Comic Shop News (and who doesn't?) thank your retailer who pays for the copies of CSN they distribute each week.





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READER RED K AWARDS

COMIC SHOP NEWS

Back in December, we presented the 22nd annual edition of our Red K Awards, a blending of commendations and critiques dedicated to pointing out some of the best and worst of the past year. At the end of that feature, we encouraged you, our readers, to send us your own Red K Awards for the best and worst of 2012—and that's just what you did! So let's take a look at what you had to say!

The "Call For Back-Up" Award

Savage Dragon

"Usually, it's a bonus when a comic book includes an original back-up story with no increase in cover price. Also, if its inclusion doesn't result in the reduction of pages for the title feature, then the reader gets a bigger bang for their buck. ***Savage Dragon*** provides one of the best examples of this, currently. For dozens of issues, now, *Erik Larsen* has delivered entertaining back-up stories in the pages of ***Savage Dragon*** at no extra cost and without cutting down the length of his main strip... At a time when the 'Big Two' are typically offering only twenty pages of story per issue, for a comparative price, the content-laden ***Savage Dragon*** affords a better bargain as well as a fun and exciting alternative."
—*Stephen Beg*

The "Too Much Punishment" Award

The Punisher

"After years of not having a quality ***Punisher*** book in the main Marvel Universe, fans were relieved when *Greg Rucka* and his team put together a spectacular series. Then the series gets cancelled!..."
—*Joseph Courtney*

The "Water You Waiting For?" Award

Aquaman

"Anyone who's not reading *Aquaman* because of the tired old jokes about what a wimpy character he used to be is missing the best book published today. *Geoff Johns* proves that under the right writer, *any* character has superstar potential."
—*Kaylee Barron*

The "Back to the Basics" Award

Joss Whedon's Avengers

"Let's see... comics struggle to cut their loss in readership by abandoning established characters and personalities that fans know and love and reinterpreting heroes as something they never were, and the result is most comics sell far less than 100,000 copies a month. *Joss Whedon* makes a film that presents the Avengers almost *exactly* as they were during the classic *Stan Lee-Jack Kirby* era and millions of people spend billions of dollars to watch it in theaters and on DVD. So tell me which approach is the one that appeals to the largest audience?..."
—*Chuck Nguyen*

"Most Appropriately Titled Comic" Award

Infinite Vacation

"Issue 1 of 5 appeared on shelves in January of 2011. Issue 5 appeared in February 2013. Five issues in two years. With almost ten months between the last two issues, it surely *felt* like an infinite vacation!"
—*Todd Maxwell*

The "Kid-ding Around" Award

Children's Books

"A few years ago it looked like the comic book industry had totally forgotten about little kids. Now some of the best selling comics are made for young children, and many of them are so good that adults can enjoy them, too. It's got to be good for the future of comics when there are eight and ten year old boys and girls who are excited about comics just like we used to be when we were their age..."
—*Frankie Starnes*

The "Don't Be a Stranger" Award

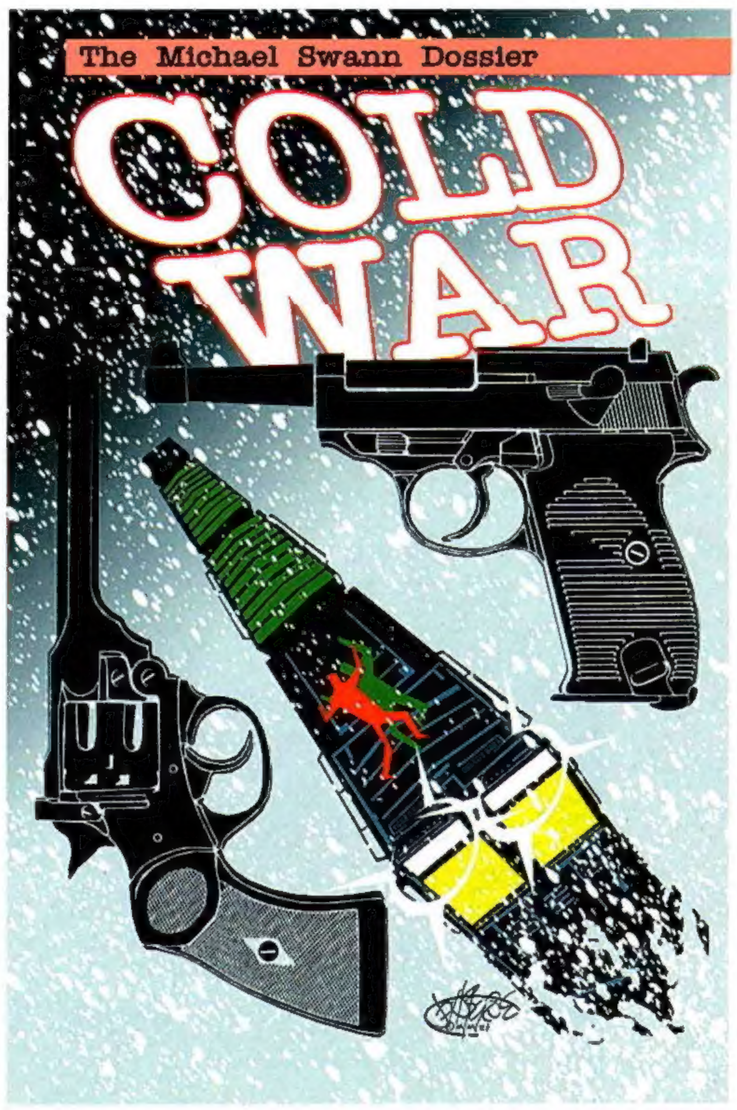
Strangers in Paradise

"*Terry Moore*, we need more ***Stranger in Paradise!*** The ending of the first series was tailor-made for a sequel; we need more Francine and Katchoo comics. Not novels, *comics!*"
—*Kelly Suelke*

The "Byrne—John Byrne" Award

John Byrne's Cold War

"This miniseries is what a James Bond film *should* be: an espionage series set in the middle of the Cold War, following a British spy as he tries to keep nuclear superiority away from the Soviets. Now I want to see Byrne doing a monthly James Bond series!"
—*Darren Calloway*



The "Green Hornet Strikes Out" Award

Green Hornet Strikes

"It took Dynamite nearly two years to get all ten issues of ***Green Hornet Strikes*** out, with about half that time passing between #9 and #10. So the final issue must have had *someone* giving it a second glance, right? Well, what started as an intriguing story of a near-future Hornet & Kato, ended with two pages of art being reproduced twice over within that last comic (with the word balloons overlaying the art, meant for the panels that *should* have been there....). Though the found "silver bullet" was a nice touch at the very end, the long awaited conclusion was marred by this unfortunate oversight.
—*Vinny Bellizia*

The "Trade Deficit" Award

Overpriced Trade Paperbacks

"I used to 'wait for the trade' for a lot of stories rather than buying individual issues, but a lot of publishers are charging more for the paperbacks and hardcovers than the cost of the issues included in the book. Why so greedy?"
—*Andrew Kirney*

The "Hell No for Hollywood" Award

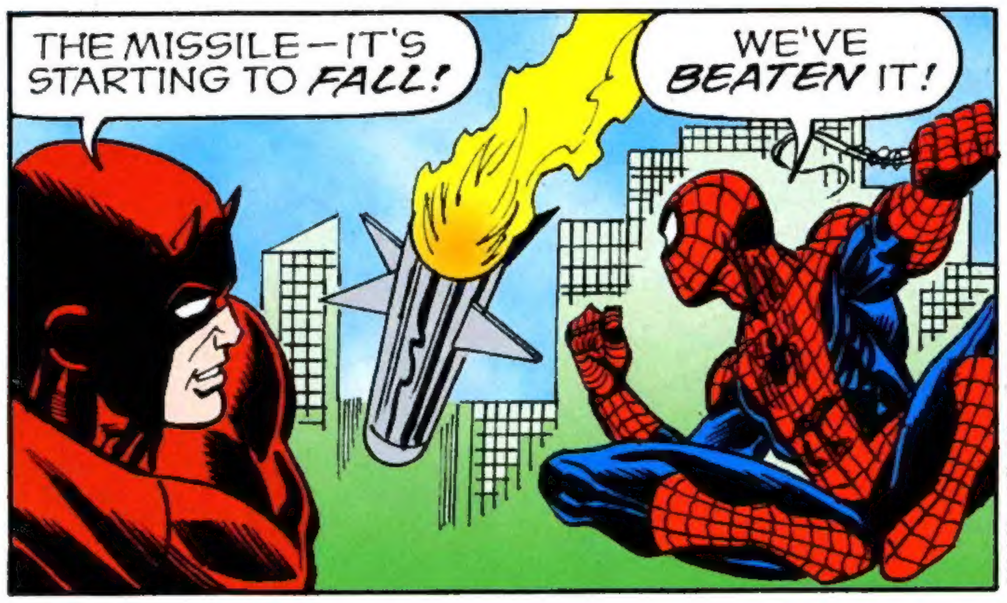
Hollywood Reporter

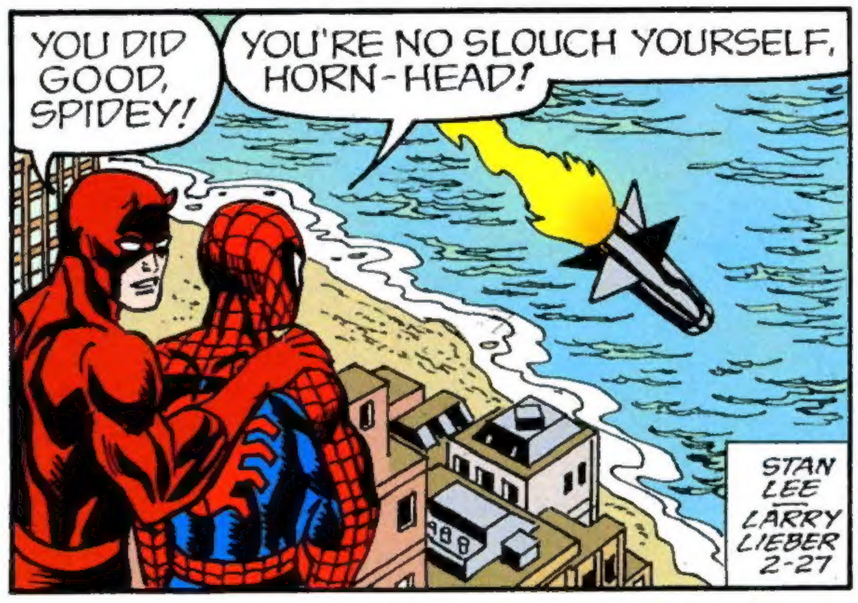
Shame on you for spoiling the ending to ***Amazing Spider-Man #700*** by announcing Peter Parker's death in the headline the day the book was released. Not all of us can get to the store on Wednesday! I live in Perth, Western Australia, and am lucky to get my books on the Friday of the week they're published! Have you noticed that the mainstream showbiz media only tends to report on big comic storylines if they can spoil them?"
—*Mike King*

The "Save Something for Twomorrow" Award

TwoMorrows Publishing

"I love their magazines, I really do, but couldn't they do a better job of spacing things out? They go for weeks and weeks with nothing and then release ***Alter Ego*** and ***Back Issue*** at the same time. Have mercy on my budget!"
—*Emmy Nesbitt*





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The "Devil of a Good Read" Award

Daredevil

"After *Daredevil* swept in and stole four Harvey Awards (Best Writer, Best Inker, Best Series, and Best New Series) during the Baltimore Comic-Con, it kind of makes you wonder if *Mark Waid & Paulo Rivera* sold their souls to a certain dark lord in order to gain fame and fortune, doesn't it?"
—*Joseph Courtney*

The "Great Scott!" Award

Scott Snyder

"Kudos to the industry's up-and-coming great writer! When I think he can't top ***American Vampire,*** he gives us ***Court of Owls.*** And when we think that was the best thing that ever happened to Batman in the last few years, 'Death of the Family' appears! And now he has Superman, and he's joined by *Jim Lee*! Scott, make us believe!"
—*Lenin Yerkes*

The "Great Scott!" Award Part 2

Scott Dunbier

"IDW's Artist's Editions are the best thing to happen to comics in years! I'll never be able to afford a single page of artwork, but thanks to *Scott Dunbier* it's almost like I have a multi-million dollar collection of art of my very own. I hope that IDW convinces Dunbier to produce a new Artist's Edition every month..."
—*Iain Montgomery*

The "Great Scot!" Award Part 3

Grant Morrison

"He started out as a quirky Vertigo-style writer but quickly developed into the best storyteller in the DC Universe. No one can match Morrison's skill at pulling together random pieces of DC history and minutia and reassembling them into something unforgettable and epic."
—*Nic Baetti*

The "What a Krause Way to Go" Award

Comics Buyers Guide

"I can't believe that the publishers of the ***Comics Buyers Guide*** thought so little of the magazine, its staff, and its readers that they just quit publishing it without a farewell issue, without a retrospective, or without an attempt to rally readers and retailers to support it. Booo..."
—*Tammy Waldner*

The "Batman: Oddity" Award

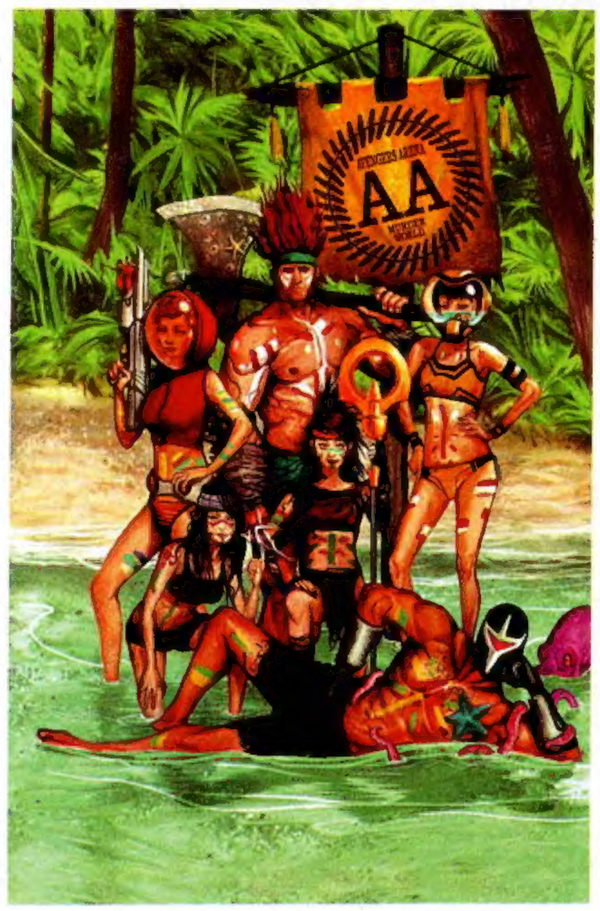
Batman: Odyssey

"Imagine how excited I was when I heard *Neal Adams* was returning to Batman. Imagine how confused I was by this nonsensical comic book, half of which seemed to consist of paste-ups of the a few drawings of a shirtless Bruce Wayne telling his story. Sometimes an artist *really* needs a writer... and an editor!"
—*Darrell Bratcher*

The "Looking Before-ward" Award

Before Watchmen

"A vocal minority of internet fanboys were up in arms when DC announced the launch of the ***Before Watchman*** prequel series, considering it to be an insult to *Alan Moore*. But being the consummate contrarian, I saw it as the perfect opportunity to delve back into a hobby I'd abandoned for years. Though there are some quibbles with the series (delayed deliveries, somewhat slim content for the $3.99 price, and perhaps too vast a selection of titles and tie-ins), the writers and artists have done an *exceptional* job of fulfilling what was promised. The artwork has been superior, and the stories have expanded and enlarged upon the characters while remaining true to their creator's original intent. These books deserve a better fate than to languish on your comic shop's shelf because of misplaced geekdom loyalty to a decades-old fit of pique by Moore. He is an artist, and thus has the right to exhibit pique on occasion, but enough has become too much."
—*Thomas Killian*



The "Hunger Battle Avengers Arena Games Royale" Award

Avengers Arena

"Well, if it's good enough for young adult novels, films, and manga, it's good enough for Marvel comics!..."
—*Angie Bearden*

The "Stripping Made Easy" Award

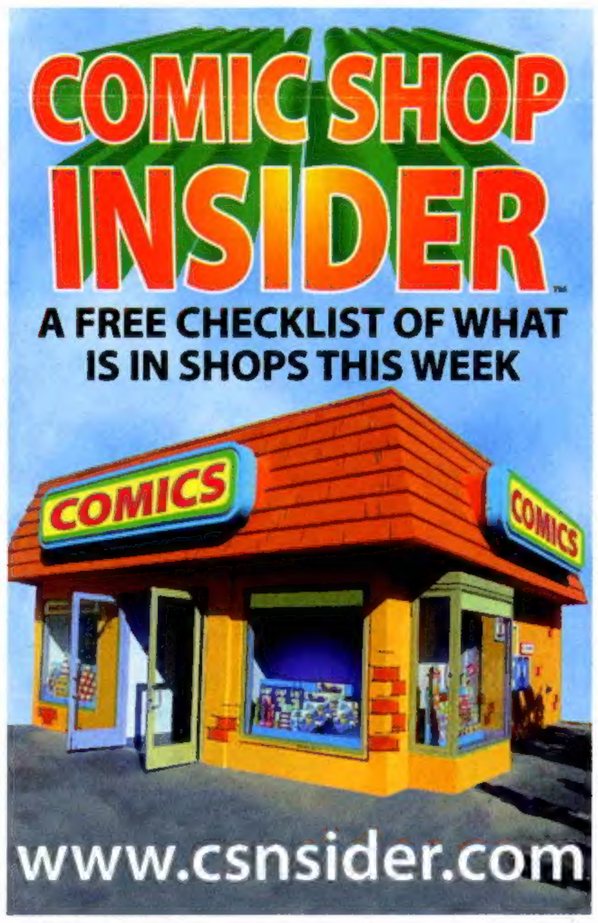
Comic Strip Reprints

"Thanks to IDW, Fantagraphics, and a few other publishers, many would agree that we are living in the golden age of newspaper strip reprints. IDW has really become the leader in this area, with many outstanding series collections currently being released. Great titles such as ***Steve Canyon, Bloom County,*** and many others have been made available, as well as more obscure gems like ***Miss Fury*** by *Tarpe Mills*. And here's a 'Special K' award to Fantagraphics for their beautiful reprinting of the complete ***Prince Valiant*** Sundays in a very affordable package. Now all you need to do is figure out what to do with all of your old newspaper strip clippings..."
—*Mike McPeek*

The "Bull's Eye" Award

Hawkeye

"The best new Marvel book of the year... and there were a *lot* of new Marvel books this year!"
—*Michel King*



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The "Valiant Effort" Award

Valiant Comics

"I first got into comics with the original Valiant—*Archer & Armstrong, Solar, HARD Corps,* and *Harbinger* were my favorites. I was nervous when I heard that new people were relaunching the Valiant line, but I shouldn't have been. The new Valiant comics have been just as good as the originals I loved when I was a teenager... So where's the rest of the line? *We need more Valiant!"*
—Bobby Guldenschuh

The "Excellence in Marketing" Award

DC Comics Annuals

"Kudos to DC Comics for producing annuals and having them appear during 'fifth weeks when the number of regular books are lower than usual. It makes it easier to spend $5.00 on an annual when you're not spending $20 or $30 on regular titles."
—Steve Andrews

The "Faust And Last!" Award

Faust

"To be honest, I had forgotten all about *Faust* until an issue showed up on the comic shop racks. I read through it, and realized I no longer remembered what had happened in the earlier issues. Even worse, I don't know where I've filed the earlier issues! These guys really should have put out some sort of collected edition just to refresh our memory..."
—Ken Skelton

The "Freeing Up a Slott in My Comics Schedule" Award

Dan Slott & Amazing Spider-Man #700

"By approving this horrible storyline, Marvel has told all of us Spidey fans that they value headlines and shock value over quality stories and loyalty to the character that made them successful. I quit buying Spider-Man because of this, and I'm not sure whether I'm coming back or not when Marvel inevitably reverses it."
—Craig Anspacher

The "Doing Digital Right" Award

Marvel Comics

"This is the way digital comics *should* be done: free digital copies with every print copy purchase. And I just found out from the clerk at my local comic shop that they get money back from Marvel every time I download that free digital copy. That's incredible!"
—Chris Byars

The "Bring on the Bad Guys" Award

Comic book covers

"There aren't enough covers with prominent villain group shots. We see heroes facing off against... well, no one! A recent *X-Men* cover depicted the team standing on an X without a villain in sight. Where are U-Foes or the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants or other bad guy teams who can face off against the heroes?"
—Thomas Benau

The "All The Leaves Are Brown, & the Sky Is Grey" Award

Modern Comic Book Coloring

"Comics used to be filled with vibrant, bright, and energetic color. So why does every comic book nowadays look like someone dialed down the bright and poured on an extra layer of murky? Comics don't have to be dreary, you know..."
—Phil Harriman

The "AR Right!" Award

Marvel's AR

"Most publishers seem to think that the internet's only purpose is to sell us comics, but Marvel has really come up with something fresh and innovative with their Marvel AR. The inclusion of 'augmented reality' panels in comics enhances the book in the same way a commentary track can enhance a DVD. And if you don't like it, you can ignore it and still enjoy your book just the same. Thanks, Marvel!"
—Stacy Hales

The "Tissue Every Issue" Award

Comics Printed on Cheaper Paper

When I look at my earlier issues of *Ultimate Spider-Man,* a see quality printing on glossy paper with card covers. Now I pick up *Ultimate Spider-Man* and a lot of other comics and the quality of the paper is more like toilet tissue. When did 'Make Mine Marvel' become 'Make Mine Charmin'?"
—Edward Lin

The "What's in a Name?" Award

Creator-titled comics

"If you're going to call a book *Kevin Smith's Green Hornet* or *Garth Ennis' Jennifer Blood,* then *Kevin Smith* and *Garth Ennis* need to be writing it, or else you're not getting any of *Adam Brucato's* money."
—Adam Brucato

The "Any Portfolio in a Storm" Award

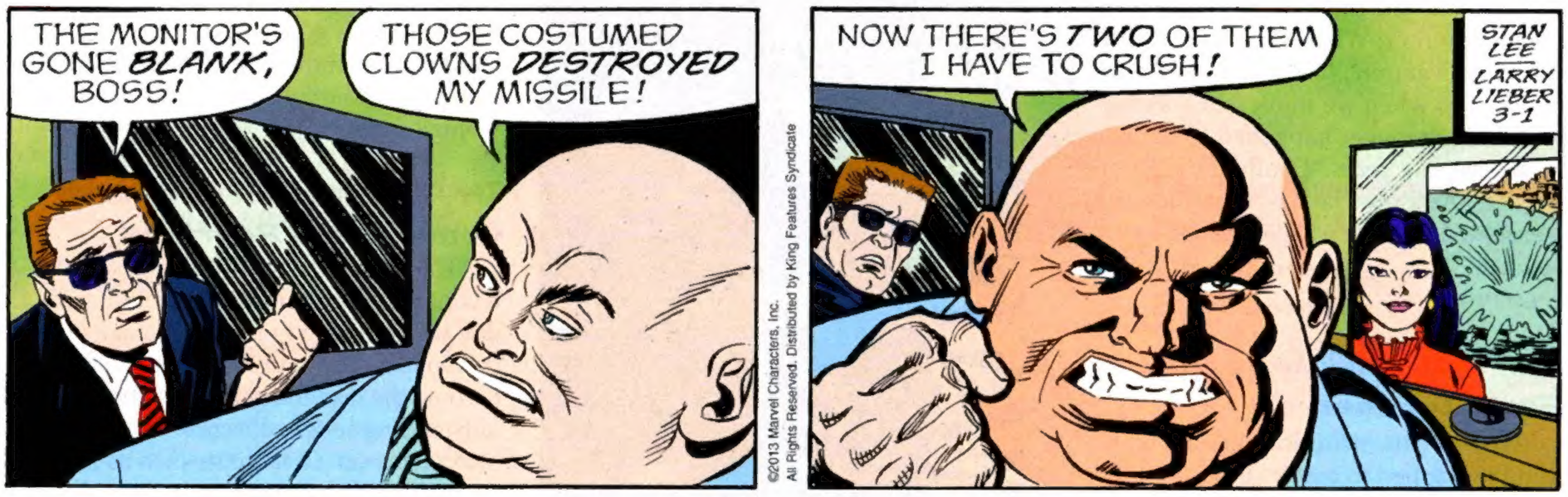
Comic Art Portfolios

"IDW's *Neal Adams* and *Bernie Wrightson* portfolios made me realize just how much I miss the old portfolio format. Remember when publishers used to offer the works of such greats as *Frank Frazetta, Jack Kirby, George Perez,* and others in attractive portfolios printed almost the same size as the original art? With today's printing technology making super-high-quality printing cheaper than ever, why aren't more publishers offering some of their best work in nice portfolios filled with large pieces of art worth framing?"
—Charlie Kilby

The "TwoMorrows Makes My Day" Award

TwoMorrows Publishing

Whilst others look for what may be the future publications to supplant *Wizard* and *Comics Buyers Guide,* TwoMorrows magazines like *Back Issue* and *Alter Ego* look back on comics history and continue, year after year, to help fans of the this creative art delve deeper into its rich past. Their dedication to dusting off the past really makes them shine."
—Vinny Bellizia


THE MONITOR'S GONE BLANK, BOSS!
THOSE COSTUMED CLOWNS DESTROYED MY MISSILE!
NOW THERE'S TWO OF THEM I HAVE TO CRUSH!
STAN LEE
LARRY LIEBER
3-1
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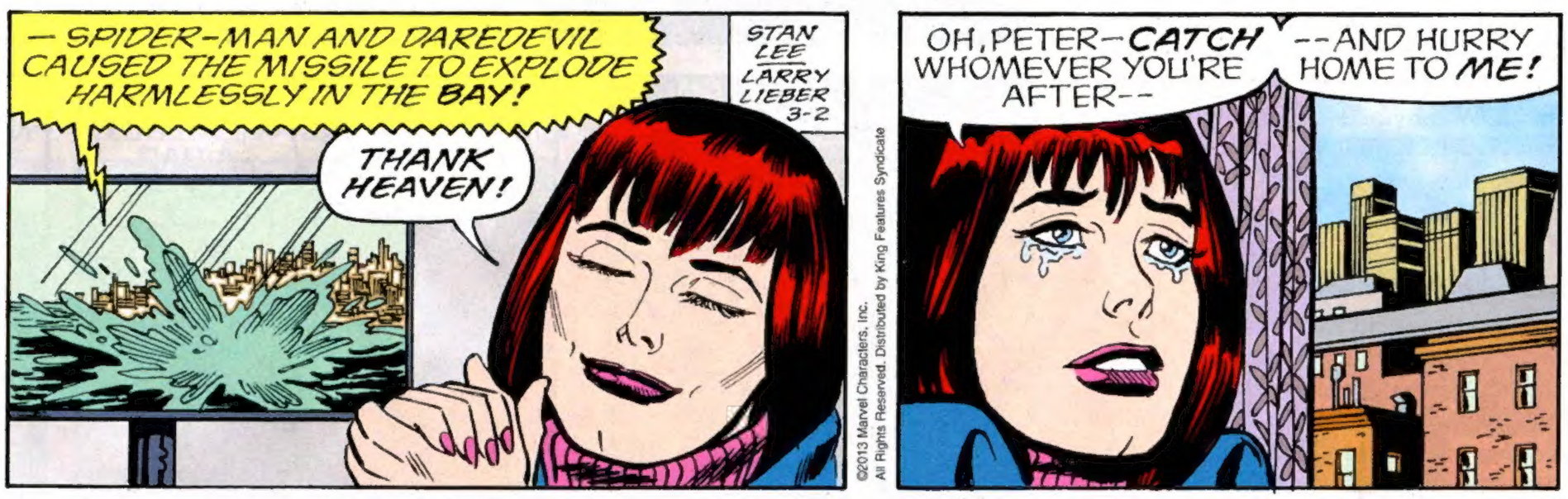
— SPIDER-MAN AND DAREDEVIL CAUSED THE MISSILE TO EXPLODE HARMLESSLY IN THE BAY!
THANK HEAVEN!
STAN LEE
LARRY LIEBER
3-2
OH, PETER— CATCH WHOMEVER YOU'RE AFTER--
--AND HURRY HOME TO ME!
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Follow *Spider-Man* every week in *Comic Shop News*!

The "Cover Less Comics" Award

Multiple Covers

"How many covers do we need for one comic, anyway? I'm not talking about pricey variant covers, either. Did ***Walking Dead #100*** need all those covers? Do Avatar books need three or four covers for each issue? Does every Boom comic have to have two covers? Why do we have to have four covers on ***The Shadow***? Sometimes I end up buying a book twice by mistake because I didn't recognize the cover and thought it was a new issue. And if that's your game, publishers, it doesn't work because my comic shop lets me bring back the extra copies, so you don't win."
—Andre Beard

The ultimate edition of The New York Times bestseller!
THE WALKING DEAD
COMPENDIUM ONE
Robert Kirkman • Charlie Adlard • Tony Moore • Cliff Rathburn

The "No-Brainer" Award

Walking Dead Compendium Vols 1 & 2

"48 issues of *Walking Dead* would cost almost $150 at cover price. The eight trade paperbacks would cost $120. But I can get 48 issues in one ***Compendium*** for $60! Thanks, Image, for giving me hours of entertainment and still leaving me some money for lunch during the week!"
—Jordan Vaughn

The ""Lois Common Denominator" Award

Lois Lane & Superman

"Eliminating the Lois and Clark romance is about as sacrilegious as eliminating Krypton from the Superman legend. Make it right, DC!"
—Deb Johnston

The "Omni-busted" Award

Marvel's Out of Print Omnibuses

"I picked up a reprint of *Amazing Fantasy #15* and *Spider-Man #1* last summer, and it had an ad in the back for a *Spider-Man Omnibus* reprinting all the early issues. I ask my comic shop to get me a copy and they tell me it's been out of print for years and is now selling for hundreds of dollars. Now I find out that lots of other books are in the same situation. Don't tease us with ads for books you aren't printing any more, Marvel. Please get these books back in comic shops."
—Thom Garrison

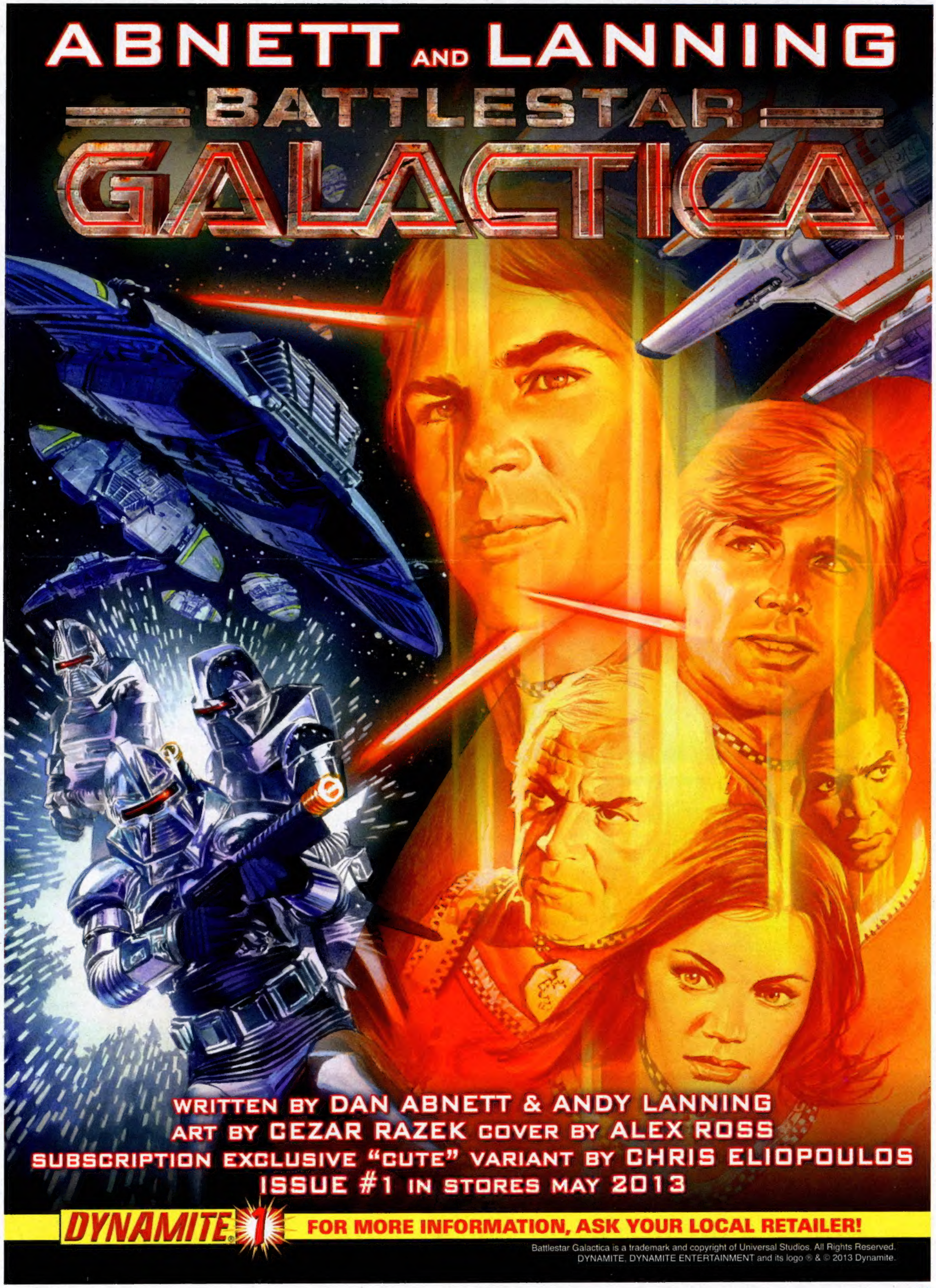
The "What's Up? Doc!" Award

Doc Savage

"The Shadow's back. The Spider's back. Dynamite is doing a miniseries bringing together all the pulp heroes. So when do we get a new Doc Savage series?"
—Carl Fowler

And there you have the best and worst of 2012, according to our readers! Thanks to all of you who submitted your own nominations, and I wish we had room to offer something from everyone (you might be surprised to learn how many comics or creators were spotlighted in five or ten different Red K submissions, so some of the awards that made the cut actually represent the sentiments of many other readers as well). And look for us in late December, when we'll do it all over again for 2013!

twitter.com/csnsider


ABNETT AND LANNING
BATTLESTAR
GALACTICA
WRITTEN BY DAN ABNETT & ANDY LANNING
ART BY CEZAR RAZEK COVER BY ALEX ROSS
SUBSCRIPTION EXCLUSIVE "CUTE" VARIANT BY CHRIS ELIOPOULOS
ISSUE #1 IN STORES MAY 2013
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Dark Horse adapts Robert E. Howard's only Conan novel in King Conan: Hour of the Dragon!
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SUPER
BRUTAL
X
DUANE SWIERCZYNSKI and ERIC NGUYEN relaunch the classic Dark Horse vigilante!

COVER

X #1

Dark Horse Comics

The brutal story of Dark Horse's bloodiest hero — X — begins anew from writer Duane Swierczynski and artist Eric Nguyen in this new series resurrecting the Dark Horse anti-he

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STORY

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THE WAKE #1
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arine biologist reluctantly helps the
rtment of Homeland Security with a
reat, taking her to the depths of the
ircle and a secret underwater oil rig
where something miraculous and
terrifying has been uncovered...

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